

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

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PLAZA HOME MORTGAGE, INC.,

Plaintiff,

-against-

ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED  
MORTGAGE ORIGINATORS RISK  
RETENTION GROUP, INC., *et al.*,

Defendants.

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**JENNIFER E. WILLIS, UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE:**

On April 21, 2025, Defendants filed a letter requesting a settlement conference. Dkt. No. 52. On April 24, 2025, Plaintiff filed a response letter informing the Court that it is not opposed to settlement but wishes to continue with discovery. Dkt. No. 53.

The Parties are ordered to meet and confer **by May 20, 2025** and discuss whether they are collectively seeking a court assisted settlement conference. If so, the Parties are directed to contact Courtroom Deputy Christopher Davis via email **by May 21, 2025** at [WillisNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:WillisNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov) to provide three mutually agreeable dates in **June, July, or August**.

If the Parties are unable to collectively agree on a court assisted settlement conference, they shall file a joint letter **by May 21, 2025**, informing the Court of that decision. Whether the Parties agree to a court assisted settlement conference or not, discovery shall continue and the Court expects Defendants to file the next status update required by Dkt. No. 51.

Any conference will be held in person at Courtroom 228, 40 Foley Square, New York, New York. Should the Parties not wish to schedule a settlement conference at this time, they should inform the Court via email by the same deadline.

Parties must attend in person with their counsel. **The Parties should be prepared for the settlement conference to last all day.** Corporate Parties must send the person with decision-making authority to settle the matter to the conference. **At least a week prior to the conference, the Court will hold a pre-conference call with the attorneys.**

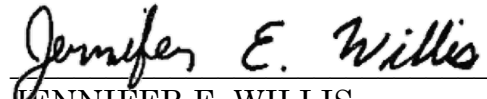
The Parties **are required** to prepare pre-conference submissions in accordance with Judge Willis's [Standing Order for All Cases Referred for Settlement](#). These letters must be submitted **three days prior to the date of the pre-conference call**. See § 3 of the Standing Order, ("no later than three days before the pre-conference telephone call"), counsel for each Party must send the Court by email a letter, marked "Confidential Material for Use Only at Settlement Conference," which should not be sent to the other parties. The letter should be sent to WillisNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov. This *ex parte* letter must not exceed three pages.... The letter should include, at a minimum, the following: (a) the history of settlement negotiations, if any, including any prior offers or demands; (b) your evaluation of the settlement value of the case and the rationale for it; (c) any case law authority in support of your settlement position; and (d) any other facts that would be helpful to the Court in preparation for the conference.")

**The Parties are also required to jointly fill out the attached form and submit it via email at least three days prior to the pre-conference phone call.**

Finally, should either Party wish to discuss a possible declaration of bankruptcy, a limited ability to pay an award, or lack of access to cash to fund a settlement, the Parties are strongly encouraged to discuss such issues with opposing counsel prior to the settlement conference and to provide documents in their confidential *ex parte* letters that speak to their financial condition.

SO ORDERED.

DATED: New York, New York  
April 29, 2025

  
JENNIFER E. WILLIS  
United States Magistrate Judge

# SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE FORM

This form should be completed jointly by the Parties and emailed to [WillisNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov](mailto:WillisNYSDChambers@nysd.uscourts.gov) no later than three days before the pre-conference telephone call. The answers to this form **will be kept confidential and fall within Rule 408 of the Federal Rules of Evidence.**

Please cite to the relevant docket entry where appropriate.

**1. Has a deadline for fact discovery been set in this case?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, the discovery deadline is/was\_\_\_\_\_

**If so, is discovery closed?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, the discovery deadline is/was\_\_\_\_\_

**Does either Party intend to seek to reopen discovery?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**2. Do the Parties expect any expert discovery?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**Is there a deadline for expert discovery?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, the expert discovery deadline is/was\_\_\_\_\_

**3. Is either Party waiting to receive records (medical records, payroll records, expert reports, etc.) important to its case?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what are those records?\_\_\_\_\_

Is the Party still prepared to settle even without receipt of those documents?

\_\_\_\_\_

**4. Has a Motion to Dismiss or Motion on the Pleadings Been Filed?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, did the District Judge rule on the Motion to Dismiss?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please list the surviving claims below:

\_\_\_\_\_

**5. Has a Motion for Summary Judgment Been Filed?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, did the District Judge rule on the Motion?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what did the District Judge rule?

Granted\_\_\_\_\_ Denied\_\_\_\_\_ Granted in part \_\_\_\_\_

If no, do the Parties intend to file for summary judgment?

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Are attorney's fees part of the damages calculation? If so, to date, what are the total attorney fees accumulated in the case?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, \$\_\_\_\_\_

**7. Is this a fee-shifting case, if so, please identify the relevant statute.**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, the relevant statute is:\_\_\_\_\_

**8. What are the estimated attorney fees for each side for the next stages of the litigation?**

Plaintiff \$\_\_\_\_\_ Prefer Not to answer\_\_\_\_\_

Defendant \$\_\_\_\_\_ Prefer Not to answer\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Are there any financial constraints affecting the settlement discussions the Court should be aware of?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, what are those financial constraints? \_\_\_\_\_

**10. What was Plaintiff's last best offer? When was this offer made?**

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Offer: \_\_\_\_\_

**11. What was Defendant's last best offer? When was this offer made?**

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Offer: \_\_\_\_\_

**12. If this case were to go to trial, do the Parties anticipate it will be a bench trial or a jury trial?**

Bench Trial\_\_\_\_\_

Jury Trial\_\_\_\_\_

**13. Does either Party intend to raise an inability to pay defense?**

**Plaintiff/Cross Defendant**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**Defendant/Cross Plaintiff**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**If so, have the Parties shared any financial documents demonstrating an inability to pay?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

**14. Are there any other impediments to settlement that the Court should be aware of?**

Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

If yes, please describe.\_\_\_\_\_